

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23 and ending at page 6, line 9, and replace with the following amended paragraph:

Therefore, the luminous flux can appropriately be restricted with respect to the light receiving portion 5 when the diaphragm has, for example, a small oval shape as shown in FIG. 5. That is, as long as having this shape, the diaphragm can appropriately restrict light in the horizontal direction at the left and the right ends of the light receiving portion 5. Consequently, no light is incident on the vertical register portion 6 (see FIG. 11), so that the generation of smears is reduced. Further, with respect to the vertical direction, since light is incident on a large area of the light receiving portion 5, light is efficiently received. While the edges of the oval shape of FIG. 5 ~~[[is]]~~are linear ~~[[in]]~~ along the vertical direction in correspondence with the shape of the light receiving portion, ~~[[it is]]~~the edges are circular ~~[[in]]~~along the horizontal direction. The circular shape ~~[[in]]~~along the horizontal direction is decided in accordance with the effective aperture of the image input optical system. The shape ~~[[in]]~~along the vertical direction is decided based on the angle of view of the image sensor.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14 and ending at page 7, line 6, and replace with the following amended paragraph:

Consequently, a high-quality image with few smears is obtained without the output of the image sensor 3 being largely reduced. The diaphragm 2 does not necessarily have the oval shape but may have a shape, for example, ~~that is where~~ the edges are linear ~~[[in]]~~along the vertical direction and ~~[[is]]~~are also linear ~~[[in]]~~along the horizontal direction. Moreover, the linear shape ~~[[in]]~~of the edges along the vertical direction may be provided only on one side. FIG. 9 shows a phenomenon in which smears are generated due to a displacement between the entrance pupil and the exit pupil of the input optical system, Normally, the

entrance pupil of the input optical system is set at infinity. That is, the image sensor 3 is set on the assumption that a parallel light ray is incident thereon through the image input optical system. The exit pupil of the image input optical system is frequently situated at a finite distance with respect to the image sensor 3. For this reason, there is a displacement between the entrance pupil and the exit pupil, so that the luminous flux is obliquely incident on the light receiving portions 5 of the image sensor 3 as shown in FIG. 9. Consequently, the relative position relationship of the luminous flux with respect to the light receiving surface is different between on the right and the left sides of the image sensor. For this reason, light enters the vertical transferring portion 6 as shown in FIG. 11, so that smears are largely generated. A light restricting plate 4 may be used for restricting the generation of the smears.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 21 and ending at page 9, line 25, and replace with the following amended paragraph:

Moreover, since the ~~light restricting plate~~ diaphragm 23 has an oval shape with edges that ~~that~~ are circular linear ~~linear~~ along the vertical direction and are linear ~~are~~ circular ~~linear~~ along the horizontal direction, ~~in the vertical direction,~~ the luminous flux is linearly restricted to reduce the generation of smears ~~and~~ in the horizontal direction, the large reduction in light quantity is prevented in accordance with the effective aperture.